(d) the steps Government propose to take to ensure that National Highway Authority of India give sufficient importance to road safety?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN): (a) Yes Sir. National Highway Authority of India (NHAI) takes the responsibility for enhancing the road safety in its jurisdication.

(b) The initiative taken by NHAI is manifested in the following measures being taken for enhancing safety under its jurisdiction.

(i) A system of safety audit in the design and project preparation.

(ii) Provision of adequate traffic signs in the construction zone.

(iii) Providing properly designed signage system on the National Highways and colaborate pavement markings.

(iv) Use of advance material such as retre reflective sheeting for signs and thermoplastic paints for pavement markings for better visibility during night time and longer service.

(v) Planning and provision of rest facilities, bus bays and truck parking facilities along the National Highways.

(vi) Planning and provision for ambulance service, crane services and highway patrolling.

(vii) Planning for highway communication system through which user can seek help from the control centre during emergency.

(c) No Sir, Road safety is given full importance by NHAI.

(d) Does not arise.

Passenger Amenities At NH-5 In Andhra Pradesh

1497. SHRI YERRA NARAYANASWAMY: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) the specific details of passenger amenities, road safety features, REST AREAS, etc. provided in National Highway No.5 in West Godavari and East Godavari districts in Andhra Pradesh by NHAI;

(b) the funds earmarked for this purpose on National Highway No. 5 by the National Highway Authority of India;

(c) the funds spent for this purpose in 1997-98; and

(d) the proposals for 1998-99 for this sector?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN): (a) National Highway Authority of India has taken up the work of widening to 4-lanes from Km 3/4 to 13 and strengthening of the reach from Km 13 to 75 including construction of Eluru by pass on NH-5 in Andhra Pradesh under an ADB loan assistance. Improvement works already carried out include widening of a bridge in Km 55/4 and of a causeway in Km 68/4. There is also a proposal to provide truck laybyes at Km 49/3, bus bays at various locations and retro reflective road signs. As regards rest areas, Collector, West Godavari District has been requested to make available adequate land on NH-5.

(b) and (c) Expenditure on account of part (a) is being met by National Highway Authority of India out of the project cost during the year 1997-98 and onwards.

(d) Government of Andhra Pradesh have earmarked a sum of Rs. 5 lakhs during 1998-99 for construction of Rest Area along NH-5 in West Godawari District.